

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Denson S3279

f25VA[sic, NC]

Transcribed by Will Graves

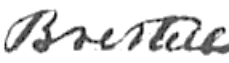
3/12/09 rev'd 12/3/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 3]

State of Tennessee, Franklin County

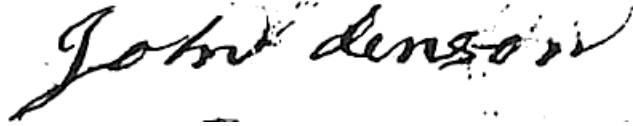
On this 2nd day of September in the year while Lord 1851 personally appeared before me, James C. Handly an acting Justice of the Peace for the County and State above mentioned, Mr. John Denson a resident of the County of Franklin and State of Tennessee, aged 90 years past, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, That he entered the service, in 1781 in Edgecombe County North Carolina as a private and was a drafted man, it was in the spring of that year, he entered the service for six months and served during that time I am not positive I served six months, it might have been more or less he first marched with a small number of men to Innfield [sic, Enfield] old Court House, and remained there for a short time only, and was sent home, to stand in readiness for orders, and after remaining a short time at home, he was called out again, and entered the Army, near Halifax, on the Roanoke River, affiant then declares, that he marched from that point, under Col. John Eaton and in a short time thereafter, they joined General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] portion of the Army, marching direct for Guilford Court House, where affiant declares, that he participated in the memorable Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], marching from that place, under Col. Eaton continued in service till sometime after the Battle of Guilford, year 1781, and after having finished his tour of service, for short times affiant declares that his relatives living in South Hampton County, in the State of Virginia and on going into that section of Country, he thinks either in September or October of 1781, he entered as a substitute for six weeks, under orders, he thinks from General Washington to raise men in that section of country, starting to Little York, they were disbanded in a few days after entering the service. Affiant further declares, that he then in the winter of 1781 and 1782 entered as a Marine, in an armed vessel under Capt. James Brestell [?]¹ on Black Water River at a town called South Quay and having sailed down the River he went out at Ocracoke Inlet, and being at sea only a few days, they fell in with a British man of war, and after a very severe engagement, the British proving too strong they were all taken prisoners of war, and taken to some one of the Bahama Islands, once there reshipped to a very old ship on which he remained for a considerable length of time though he cannot tell how long, but he well recollects that he did not get back till sometime in the early part of 1783, when they were brought to Edenton North Carolina affiant would refer the department to the ship roll of the ship

¹  Note by Will Graves, I could not identify any likely candidate for this officer

commanded by Capt. James Brittill [?] affiant further declares that he knows of no person now living that could certify to his service he having moved to the State of Tennessee some 40 years past, and further that he cannot recollect all the officers names,

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present; and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ John Denson



Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid and I further declare that I believe Mr. John Denson to be of the age that he states and from his high moral standing and for his known integrity I would further certify that I believe, that he was in the service that he states in the above declaration and that from bodily infirmity he is unable to attend court. I certify that the interlineations made on the page first was made previous to signing.

S/ Jas C. Handly

[H. L. Turney and Thomas H. Garner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1st Mr. John Denson Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in South Hampton in Virginia in the year 1760

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have a record of my age now in my possession

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

I was living in Edgecombe County North Carolina when I entered the service. I lived 20 years in Richmond County North Carolina and since that time I have lived in Franklin County Tennessee.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

I was drafted the first time and was a substitute the 2nd time and when I went under Capt. Britell [?] I was a volunteer

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

I know General Greene was there and my impression is that General Butler, I know it was Col. Eaton, but not positive it was John.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

I received a discharge or as I think an instrument of writing from a man named Edward Ruffin who told me it would answer every purpose, which is lost, from among my papers

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

I would refer you to H L Turney, Late US. Senator [Hopkins Lacy Turney] and Thomas H. Garner, of the neighborhood

S/ John Denson

North Carolina Richmond County

To all whom it may Concern

The Bearer hereof Mr. John Denson of the County and State aforesaid, has signified to us his intention of moving from his native State, and settling himself & family in some parts of the Western Counties. These are therefore to Certify, that in due Justice to the character of Mr. Denson, We recommend him as a peaceful honest Worthy and upright Citizen, who has acted faithfully in the defense of his Country and in securing that independence which we now happily enjoy -- and his family in every respect has supported the Character of inoffensive Worthy people --

We further Certify that Mr. Denson has lived neighbors to us about 21 years in peace and friendship and his friends can only regret the loss of his Company and friendship, and can only hope that it will be received in all parts and among all classes of respectable men, with that friendship and benevolence which we consider him so justly entitled to. -- Given under my hand this first day of April 1809

S/ B. H. Covington,
Clerk of the General Assembly of North Carolina

State of Tennessee County of Franklin

On this 31st day of March A.D. 1852 personally appeared before the subscriber an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid John Denson and being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following affidavit. That he made an application for a pension in the year 1851, under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832. That the reason that he did not file is application at an earlier day, was that his papers was lost, and he knew of no one that served with him living and he thought he could live without the pension though now knowing that he is entitled to a pension from the government, he hopes, that, his not applying at an earlier day will not be urged against his application.

S/ John Denson

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia and Virginia Sea Service.]